

Church News

OUR CHICAGO LETTER

RELIEF WORK

I have made an estimate of the number fed up to Jan. 1, including the dinner, and find it is not less than five hundred. It is very gratifying to know that we could add our drop, I say drop for the volunteers fed at one place twelve thousand. Sister Shroyer carried relief to a family that were in very destitute circumstances, they buy flour by the pound. You say you do, yes, but this family is so destitute that they buy simply a pound of flour. Because of your kindness we supplied their needs, and tears of joy were shed. The man now has some work and will soon be able to help his family. A poor man fell and broke his arm, a wife and ten children depending on him, not enough bed clothes; one of the heavy comforts went to him. Another family with but one, were given two, so your goods go out to make poor souls happy. Bless the Lord, the poor are having the gospel preached to them in a practical way. We could tell you some pitiful things, but why? The fact that Jesus commands ought to do.

DO YOUR DUTY

I want to call the attention of some to a fact, that is pay the freight. Christmas eve and day I had to pay express charges to the amount of about fourteen dollars, not counting the drayage, which made a very heavy bill. For a little while I was puzzled, but on advice we disposed of the contents of two boxes to help us out, and the most of it went to the poor. Then two brethren gave us a dollar each, and all ended well. Now brethren when a church or society sends in a box of clothing or goods pay the freight or express; unless you do I shall be under the painful necessity of turning them back, compelled to. I trust that these churches who failed to pay the express charges will become convicted and bring forth fruit meet for repentance, see! Another thing, send your bill of lading. I need it. Sometimes I fail to get a box for several days for want of it. It may not be necessary in a small place but it is essential here. No matter what the agent says, get the bill of lading; I would not insist on it if it was not essential.

THE DIVINE PARTNERSHIP

Co-workers with God. A friend of mine told me how he started a news boy in business, then started him in as a shoe-black. Going down the street one day he found the boy had a stand and his own name and my friend's name in large letters over the door. The boot black thought he was doing him an honor to put his name out as partner, but my friend thought otherwise. But it is a great honor to be in partnership with the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Plenty of capital, no danger of loss, remission of sins, and eternal life among the blessings, how we ought to appreciate the opportunity and engage in the work of missions with our whole heart; that "Inasmuch" in Matt. 25th shows

the motive. Wherein you can work best, there work; put your hand to the plow and look not back, work tells, let the devil loaf; we have no time.

SOME WHO HELP

Some one sent us a box of baby shoes. Our special friends in Hamlin, Kans., sent us a special lot of goods. Some of the salt of the earth lives there. The following places helped in our Christmas work: Morrill, Kans.; Jonesboro, Maple Grove, Zanesville, Claypool, Tiosa and Eaton, Ind.; North Liberty, Glenford, Greenville and Danville, Ohio; Dallas Center and Hudson, Iowa; Hatfield and Chambersburg, Pa.; Downsville, Md.; Crete, Neb. I would like to mention each one in detail, but you see that in distributing several thousand pieces of clothing and hundreds of relief bundles, how utterly impossible it is to mention each. We acknowledge each by mail, but am a little behind owing to my illness. I am at work again, but a little shaky in the knees. Guess I had not better brag on my good health next time. Had I obeyed the laws of nature better, I would not have got whipped. Brother and Sister Hemphill from Garrison, Iowa, were with us recently, Bertha Urice, it used to be. They have our prayers for a happy voyage. May life be as snug to them as the mits are to us they so kindly left.

WHY IS IT?

I have been much impressed recently with some things. One is concerning some brethren and the Holy Ghost. Just as long as you side with them and say amen to their opinions, everything is lovely and you are a good fellow, but if you act on your own judgment, if you stand up for what you believe and know is right, and your opinion crosses theirs or you take them to task for some wrong doing, why then they say you have not yet received the Holy Ghost, and you should get it, etc. Such stuff makes me tired. When a man hides his meanness behind the Holy Ghost, it is time to rout him out, where he can get the substance and not simply play with the shadow.

JOHN DUKE MCFADEN.

384 S. Western Ave.

Maurertown, Va.

The night of Wednesday, 15th of December brought a sad visitation to our dear old and faithful brother, Geo. S. Rinker and family, of Reliance, Va. After midnight the alarm of fire awoke the family only to see their stable and contents going down into ashes by the angry flames. Four horses, two cows, one buggy and harness and a saddle and bridle were consumed.

Brother Rinker has for years been a faithful worker in the vineyard of the Lord and has preached more funeral sermons than any preacher of his county. He always was a fearless herald of the gospel truths and nothing but providential hindrance prevents him from filling his regular appointments. Cold and inclement weather never deterred him. In the last few years he has been su-

perannuated. Being over seventy years of age he has been a great sufferer from rheumatism, so that much of his time he is confined to his room. Brother Rinker never accumulated much of this world's goods, neither did his congregation supply his temporal needs. And now in his old age this misfortune has fallen heavily upon him, which surely should call forth substantial sympathy. Please write him a letter of encouragement, and charity will suggest that you do say, "Please find enclosed—&c., &c." Address Elder Geo. S. Rinker, Reliance, Warren County, Va.

E. B. SHAVER.

Montevallo, Missouri

Dear Evangelist:—I am a reader of our church paper and I am well pleased with it in its new form. The year that has just closed has not been as prosperous for the little band of Christians at Walnut Grove as the year previous, but we are not going to give up the battle. Our pastor, S. B. Leedy, has his regular appointments and is greeted with fair congregations. Brethren, pray for us.

J. B. LEEDY.

Norcat, Kans.

Brother Editor:—We feel that it might be of interest to some of your readers to write a few lines from here. The work has taken a new impetus and the brethren seem to be awakening to their duty, and our prayers are that not far in the future we may see a forward march of the cause of Christ. When at conference, we reported that within the next year we hoped to have an organization in Norcat. That organization was partly effected when Brother Hixson was here and a committee appointed to look after a house in which to worship.

We wish to emphasize the fact that conference made no mistake when it elected Brother Hixson as district evangelist. He certainly is armed with the sword of the Spirit. He has succeeded in raising the apportionment for the college and says he is sure that Kanemorado district will raise its share, and Brother Keim, we are coming.

Brother Hixson has certainly made a grand impression on our people and all eagerly look forward to the time when he can stay with us longer and assist in shaking up the dry bones and bringing sinners to God. The Mt. Zion or Norcat church was organized by Elder D. M. Ritenhouse, in the spring of '94, since which time we have only been able to hold our organization, but our prayers for success never ceased and at the present we feel somewhat encouraged, although we have had much to discourage us.

O. L. BROWN.

New Market, Va.

Dear Editor:—Allow me a little space in your columns to have a word on Xmas. We have just passed another merry Xmas. Oh, how sad to think that our dear Savior suffered and died upon the cross that through him we can inherit eternal life. How many,